

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A4
1. A method of testing a head to be used in a sealed disk drive, comprising directing a flow of a gas across the head while subjecting the head to electrical testing.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the gas comprises helium.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising causing the gas to flow between the head and a disk that is being used in the electrical testing.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising causing the gas to flow out of a manifold.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising causing the gas to flow at a flow rate of from about 40 to 60 ft³/hr.

Sub A5
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising causing the gas to flow across the head for a predetermined time substantially equal to the time required for dynamic electrical testing.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein the manifold comprises an exit through which the gas flows, and the method further comprises positioning the exit from about 0.005 to 0.010 inch above the surface of a disk that is being used in the electrical testing.

Sub A6
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the head and equipment used for electrical testing are exposed to the ambient atmosphere.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the electrical testing comprises dynamic electrical testing.

Sub A7
10. The method of claim 8 wherein the head is surrounded by a shroud.

11. A device for testing a head to be used in a sealed disk drive to read/write data of a storage disk, the device comprising

a manifold having at least one opening for providing a flow of gas from a source of gas,

the at least one opening being positioned to direct the flow of gas to a surface of a storage disk positioned adjacent to the head.

12. The device of claim 11 wherein the head and manifold are mounted on a head gimbal assembly.

13. The device of claim 11 wherein said manifold includes a plurality of apertures extending radially relative to the disk

14. The device of claim 11 further comprising tubing constructed to deliver gas to the manifold.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein said tubing comprises square tubing.

16. The method of claim 6 wherein the predetermined time is less than 30 seconds.

17. The method of claim 6 wherein the predetermined time is less than 15 seconds.

18. A method of testing a head to be used in a sealed disk drive, comprising directing a flow of helium from a manifold across the head, between the head and a disk, while subjecting the head to dynamic electrical testing.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising causing the gas to flow at a flow rate of from about 40 to 60 ft³/hr.

20. The method of claim 18 further comprising causing the gas to flow across the head for a predetermined time substantially equal to the time required for dynamic electrical testing.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein the manifold comprises an exit through which the gas flows, and the method further comprises positioning the exit from about 0.005 to 0.010 inch above the surface of a disk that is being used in the electrical testing.

22. The method of claim 4 or 18 wherein the manifold comprises a two piece assembly.

23. The method of claim 4 or 18 wherein the manifold comprises an angled bore through which the gas flows.

24. The device of claim 11 wherein the manifold comprises a two piece assembly.

25. The device of claim 11 wherein the manifold comprises an angled bore through which the gas flows.